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Claims 1-13 were pending when last examined, all of which stand rejected. Claims 1, 5, and 10 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0036462 to Hirano ("Hirano") in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0038276 to Laxman et al ("Laxman").

Independent Claims 1, 5, and 10 are patentable over Hirano and Laxman at least because they recite "...an organic electroluminescent layer forming a base and a sidewall in the opening portion" As described in the subject Application, for example in reference to FIG. 1, the organic EL layer (132) is coated on the opening portion substantially conformally, so that the organic EL layer (132) itself has a shape that is similar to the shape of the opening portion. Thus, the organic EL layer (132) forms a base and a sidewall. In contrast, Hirano's organic layer (element 13 in Hirano's FIG. 1) is a flat layer. Hence, the device of Claims 1, 5, and 10 are distinguishable from a combination of Hirano and Laxman.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11-13 are patentable over Hirano and Laxman for the same reason Claims 1, 5, and 10 are patentable over Hirano and Laxman.

Applicants respectfully maintain the position that the rejection based on Hirano and Laxman is improper because there is no motivation to combine the two references, which was presented in detail in the reply to the previous Office Action. However, this point is considered moot as the amendments presented above place the claims in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

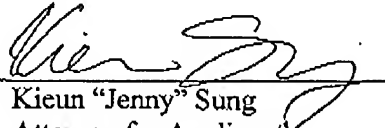
Based on the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-13 are now in condition for allowance. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (408) 392-9250 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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